
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Mile 1 Haines Highway
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CLOSURE OF SUBSISTENCE AREA TO CONSERVE CHILKAT RIVER KING SALMON

Haines — The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today that due to the low escapement and the late timing of the Chilkat River king salmon return, subsistence fisheries in Chilkat Inlet will remain closed for an additional week and the open area will be reduced during the initial week of fishing. The Chilkat Inlet subsistence fishery was scheduled to open on July 15.

The subsistence fishery in Chilkat Inlet will now open on July 22, 2017. From July 22 through July 28, the subsistence fishery in Chilkat Inlet will be closed north of the latitude of the Letnikof Point Light. The subsistence fishery in Lutak Inlet and Chilkoot Inlet north of Battery Point will be open as normal.

The Chilkat River subsistence fishery will remain open with the time and area restrictions announced in the News Release dated May 24, 2017:

The subsistence fishery in the Chilkat River, excluding that portion of the river between Haines Highway mile 19 and the Wells Bridge, will be closed June 15 – July 31. The Chilkat River between Haines Highway mile 19 and the Wells Bridge will be closed Sunday through Tuesday of each week from June 15 – July 31.

Stock assessment programs conducted on the Chilkat River have indicated that there is a significant number of large king salmon entering the river at this time. The timing of the run is at least a week later than average, indicating that king salmon may still be present in Chilkat Inlet and vulnerable to subsistence fishing activity. The projection for total escapement of Chilkat River king salmon is well below goal and delaying the subsistence fishery one week will reduce the incidental harvest of king salmon still present in Chilkat Inlet.

Commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries in Lynn Canal and Chilkat Inlet are managed under the *Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.384). This plan directs the department to manage fisheries to achieve an inriver run of 1,850 – 3,600 large (three ocean age and older) king salmon. The inriver run goal was not achieved in 2012, 2013, 2014, or 2016, and the 2017 inseason inriver forecast is for a Chilkat River king salmon run that will fall short of the lower bound of the inriver abundance goal.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this news release is EO 1S3217.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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